Social Online Protocols

Read the following two scenarios and respond to the questions below each.

MyDesign company’s network denies access to YouTube, FaceBook and Twitter. Additionally, it has forbidden its employees to use FaceBook or Twitter during work hours from any mobile device. When employees complained, they heard these remarks from the CEO:

This is, after all, work, not a playground. You have breaks, and lunch to do that, but not on our machines! People simply can't be trusted to keep away from bad sites, nor are they smart enough to tell the difference. Some still have problems understanding that the guy from Africa wanting your bank info is a scam.

Work is for work, not play; that’s what you get paid for. That computer sitying in your cubicle DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU. The internet connection DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU. Where do you get off thinking that you should be allowed to do what ever the heck you want with someone else's property? Talk about a serious lack of respect.

What prompted MyDesign to ban these sites and these practices?

* They want their employees working and not being on social networking sites.
* They don’t want employees to be scammed
* It’s not the employees personal property so they shouldn’t be on any personal sites

Employee Jerome, from MyDesign, has used his company’s email address and posted comments on a forum about design policies. It is obvious that he is upset with his manager since the comments portray the manager as a buffoon. The CEO of MyDesign wants to sack Jerome for hurting the company’s reputation. Jerome retorts that his comments are his own and he has a right to free speech.

What advice would you give to Jerome? Why?

* Think carefully before you post anything on the internet so you can make sure it’s not inappropriate and you don’t offend anyone. Also don’t use your company email address for personal use as you don’t want your employer or fellow employees to know everything you do in your own time.

What advice would you give to the CEO of MyDesign? Why?

* Make sure employees don’t use their wok emails for personal use and make sure they all know how to act properly and appropriately online.